

Community and Social Services

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Do you need Family Benefits?

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and Social Services



What is Family Benefits?

Family Benefits is a provincial allowance, paid by cheque each month, to assist people with their ordinary living expenses. Other benefits, such as free medical and hospital insurance, are also provided.

Individuals and families, likely to be in need of financial aid for extensive periods of time, may be eligible for Family Benefits.

The Family Benefits legislation came into effect April 1, 1967, replacing a number of earlier maintenance programs. Family Benefits is now Ontario's largest financial assistance program, helping to support mothers raising children alone, unemployed fathers, foster children, the disabled, and the elderly.

Who is eligible?

A person must first be in financial need, and must also be in one of the following situations:

1. a mother with one or more dependent children, who is a widow, divorced, unmarried, or whose husband:

a) has deserted her for at least three months, or
b) is a patient in a sanatorium, hospital or similar institution, or
c) is in prison and has at least six months left to serve.

2. a father with one or more dependent children, who is permanently unemployable for medical reasons, whether his wife is at home or absent.

3. a foster parent.

4. a disabled person 18 or older, who has a major physical or mental impairment likely to continue for a prolonged period of time, and as a result is severely limited in the activities of normal living. This includes a person who is nearly or totally blind.

5. a person who is 65 or older and is not eligible for Old Age Security.

6. the wife of a man who is receiving Old Age Security, if she is between 60 and 65.

7. a woman who is between 60 and 65, and who is unmarried, widowed, divorced, or a married woman whose husband:

a) has been in an institution such as mental or chronic hospital, nursing home, or home for the aged, for at least six months, or

b) has deserted her for more than three months, and his whereabouts is unknown, or

c) has lived separately from her for more than five years, or

d) is in prison and has a

term of at least six months left to serve.

A single person or the head of a family may apply for Family Benefits. The head of the family will get Family Benefits for himself and his dependents.

A person may apply for Family Benefits as long as he or she is a resident of the Province. There is no residence time requirement.

Who qualifies financially?

The first thing to consider is *assets*. Most people have assets of one type or another, such as money in the bank, bonds, property, and so forth. Every day belongings, and the house a person lives in are not considered as assets, for the purpose of Family Benefits.



A person may have up to \$1,000 in assets, with \$200 more for each dependent and still qualify for Family Benefits. An additional \$300 is allowed where a spouse is over 60.

The second thing to consider is *monthly income*. If a person's combined monthly income from all sources, minus exemptions, is less than the maximum allowance provided to meet expenses, then he qualifies financially for Family Benefits.

This is because income is subtracted from the maximum allowance for expenses, to find the actual allowance the person will receive from Family Benefits: (see box following).

A person may have a job as long as he or she still qualifies financially for Family Benefits. However, a mother raising children alone may not usually work more than 120 hours a month, and still receive an allowance. Provision is made to average hours over a four-month period to allow for seasonal or peak-time employment.

A certain part of the person's gross earnings is left out of the calculation of income to encourage the person to continue working. This is \$24 a month (plus \$12 a month for each dependent), plus one-fourth of the amount of money earned in excess of this amount.

EXPENSES (up to maximum)

food, clothing etc.
shelter
fuel
special items

total expenses

INCOME

earnings (less exemptions)

pensions
rental income
business or farming
income
other income

total income

total expenses
(minus) - total income

Family Benefits allowance

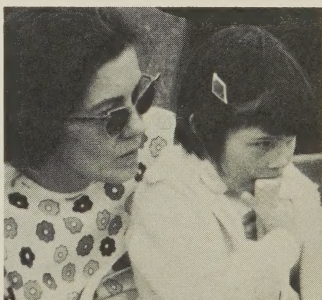
What do you get?

Family Benefits provides for food, clothing, household supplies, utilities, personal needs, shelter expenses, and fuel expenses. There are also provisions for special items such as travel for the disabled, life insurance premiums, home repairs for property owners, and special diets for people with certain medical conditions.

Family Benefits gives money for these basic living expenses, up to certain maximum amounts. The amount of the allowance depends on the size of the family, the ages of the children, the amount of money needed for expenses, such as rent, and income. For example, a mother with three children under 9 years of age and no income might receive a minimum of \$254 a month.

The needs of older people are often greater than those of other people, so for each person who is 65 or older, an amount of \$30 a month is added to the expenses in recognition of this need.

Everyone who gets Family Benefits gets free medical and hospital insurance. In addition, families with dependent children get free basic dental care.



People in special residences

People who qualify for Family Benefits, and who live in a home for the aged, a charitable institution, a nursing home, or a home for retarded persons, receive an amount toward the cost of care, plus \$25 each month as personal spending money.

This \$25 comfort allowance is also given to residents of institutions for the chronically ill, if the person qualifies financially.

Residents of other institutions, such as mental hospitals and penal institutions do not qualify for Family Benefits because their living needs are otherwise met.

To apply

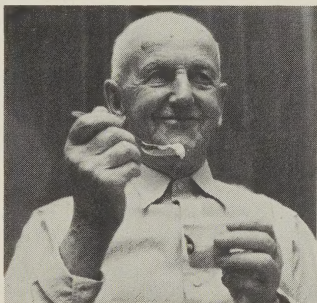
For further information or to apply for Family Benefits, contact the nearest office of the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services (listed at the back). A field worker will explain the program and fill out the necessary forms.

You can appeal

If you feel you are entitled to assistance and have been found ineligible, or

found not to qualify financially, or if you feel you are not receiving all the benefits you are entitled to, you can request a hearing from the Board of Review by writing to:

Chairman,
Board of Review,
Room MI-57
Ministry of Community and Social Services,
Queen's Park,
TORONTO, Ontario.



Other Services

In addition to an allowance, Family Benefits recipients may receive free services such as family counselling, credit counselling, nutritional counselling, vocational training for the mentally or physically handicapped, and legal aid. To find out more about these services, ask your field worker or contact our Regional Office.

Many municipalities, with the assistance of provincial subsidies, provide services such as day care and nurses and home-

makers services. They may also give supplementary aid or special assistance to help people meet the cost of extra items such as prescription drugs, excessive shelter costs, eye-glasses, dental care, and the costs of moving.

If you need money right away

It takes time to process an application for Family Benefits. If you need money right away, you also should apply to your municipal welfare or social services office for General Assistance. This is an allowance similar to Family Benefits, for people who need temporary financial assistance.

Federal government assistance

Old Age Security pensions, Canada Pensions, Unemployment Insurance, and Veteran's Pensions are available through the federal government. To find out more about these financial assistance programs, look up the Government of Canada listings in your local telephone directory.

Where to go to apply for help

ALEXANDRIA
28 Main St. 525-3524
ARMSTRONG
Lands and Forests District
Bldg. Armstrong 20

BANCROFT
Hastings Centennial Manor
Lot 2, Concession "A"
Box 99. 332-3410

BARRIE
110 Dunlop St. E.
Box 218. 726-8250

BELLEVILLE
Room 2, 14 Bridge St. W.
Box 816. 968-3506

BRACEBRIDGE
Box 838, Court House
645-2991

BRAMPTON
Ste. 506, 24 Queen St. E.
459-7135

BRANTFORD
100 Wellington Sq. 756-5790



BROCKVILLE
51 King St. E. 345-1200

CHATHAM
Weymar Building
48-Fifth St.
Box 685. 352-5040

COCHRANE
171 Fourth St.
Box 1498. 272-4846

COLLINGWOOD
144 Hurontario St.
445-4461

CORNWALL
132 Second St. E.
Box 1358. 932-3381

DRYDEN
32 King St.
Box 490. 223-2241

FORT FRANCIS
240 Scott St.
Box 760. 274-9847

GALT
63 Ainslie St. N. 623-1230
GERALDTON
Office No. 1, 1411 Main St.
Box 1029. 854-1840

GUELPH
5 Douglas St.
Gummer Bldg. 822-7500

HAILEYBURY
Court House
Box 218. 672-3501

HAMILTON
Ste. 525, 135 James St. S.
Box 870. 528-9884

HEARST
621 Front St.
Box 1348. 362-4238

KEEWATIN
104 Government Rd.
Box 429. 547-2801

KINGSTON
797 Princess St.
Box 970. 544-6206

KIRKLAND LAKE
44 Prospect Ave.
Box 398. 567-3391

LEAMINGTON
38 Erie St. N.
Box 127. 326-2511

LINDSAY
Ontario Government Bldg.
324-6121 Ext. 51

LONDON
764 Dundas St. E.
433-2821

MOOSONEE
First St. Box 160. 336-2905



NORTH BAY
Ste. 408, 222 McIntyre St. W.
Box 327. 474-3540

OAKVILLE
345 Lakeshore Blvd. E.
844-1221

OSHAWA
200 John St. W. 576-9001
OTTAWA

2197 East Riverside Dr.
Pebb Bldg. 737-5520
OWEN SOUND

347 Ninth St. E. 376-1951

PARRY SOUND
8A Sequin St.
Box 305. 746-8534

PEMBROKE
207 Renfrew St. 732-2631
PERTH

Sunset Blvd.
P.O. Box 111. 267-2504
PETERBOROUGH
139 George St. N. 742-9292

RED LAKE
Ontario Government Bldg.
Box 827. 727-2174

RENFREW
315 Raglan St. S. 432-4809

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SARNIA
700 North Christina St.
Room 207. 344-1651
SAULT STE. MARIE
123 March St.
P.O. Box 68. 256-5666
SHELBURNE
115 Shelburne St.
Box 36. 925-3319
SIMCOE
Norfolk County Bldg.
R.R. 1. 426-9350
SIOUX LOOKOUT
110 Front St.
Box 338. 737-3813
SOUTH RIVER
266 Ottawa St.
Box 161. 386-2571
ST. CATHARINES
15 Church St.
Box 176. 685-8423
STRATFORD
380 Hibernia St. 271-1530
STURGEON FALLS
Drawer 160, Main St.
753-1611
ST. THOMAS
Ste. 2, 300 Talbot St.
631-3032
SUDBURY
127 Cedar St.
Drawer 1120
674-3151 Ext. 271

THUNDER BAY
1111 Victoria Ave.
622-3934
TIMMINS
96 Balsam St. S.
Box 612. 264-9407
TORONTO
110 Eglinton Ave. W.
487-4392

WATERLOO
75 King St. S., 5th Floor
Waterloo Square. 579-3130
WINDSOR
374 Ouellette Ave.
254-9231
WINGHAM
Box 510. 357-3370

The Honourable Rene Brunelle,
Minister

M. Borczak,
Deputy Minister